

I fully support the application of the NCVEC to abolish the Element 1 Morse Code Proficiency requirement in order to secure operating privileges on the High Frequency bands assigned to the Amateur Radio Service.

The Morse Code proficiency requirement has for too long been used as a litmus test for the assignment of HF operating privileges. The contention that Morse Code proficiency assures the competence of a Amateur Radio Service licensee to operate on any of the HF bands has been demonstrated falacious on numerous occasions. Such a proficiency test merely serves to demonstrate operating proficiency in one of twenty-eight operating modes available to the licensee and at a single point in time.

The repeal of the international Morse Code proficiency requirement also opens the door to the re-instatement of the "medical waivers" to the Morse Code proficiency requirement that existed prior to April, 2000. These waivers allowed hundreds, if not thousands, of licensees to gain HF operating privileges without having to demonstrate the Morse Code proficiency assigned to their license class and effectively created two classes of operator within each license class. Elimination of the Morse Code proficiency requirement removes all possibility of reinstatement of this two tier system and allows the Commission to develop a fair and balanced examination and fair examination process that is equal for all license candidates.

During its last major overhaul of Part 97, the FCC called for the "modernization of the Amateur Radio Service". The elimination of the Morse Code proficiency requirement, I believe, is an essential part of that modernization process. I urge the Commission to eliminate the Morse Code proficiency requirement for HF operating privileges immediately.

Paul J. Toth - NA4AR

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N<BR>&lt;ADDRESS2&gt;<BR>&lt;CITY&gt; Seminole<BR>&lt;STATE&gt;
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